

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Roy I. Thun**  
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December 4, 2007

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Nadia Hollan-Burke and Mr. Dave Seter  
Remedial Project Managers  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: November 2007 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:  
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket  
No. 9-2007-0005**

Dear Ms. Hollan-Burke and Mr. Seter:

Pursuant to the above referenced order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) activities at the Yerington Mine Site during November 2007.

### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine site O&M and security activities per O&M and Site Security Work Plans.
- Pumpback well system averaged approximately 53.0 gpm; all 11 wells operated 24/7 with minor downtime for preventive maintenance (wells PW-4, PW-7 and PW-8).
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS) operations: Total estimated gallons transferred from VLT Pond to Evaporation Pond = 153,000 gal; SSP to VLT Pond = 0 gal; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 0 gal; Plant Feed to Evaporation Pond = 0 gal; Raff sump to Phase 1 Pond = 4,500 gal. Pond levels: Evaporation Pond = 4 feet; VLT Pond = 4.5 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 9 feet; Phase I Pond = < 1feet. Plant Feed and Mega ponds are dry.
- Installed 60-foot temporary barbed wire fence along Birch Dr. east of Arimetco Plant gate where the chain link security fence was damaged beyond repair by a traffic accident on November 24.

### Other Site Activities

- EPA contractors: completed decommissioning of "bath tub" heap leach pond November 2.
- Stan Weimeyer (USFWS) conducted bird counts November 8, 21 and 30.
- Joe Sawyer (NDEP) conducted monthly site inspection November 28.

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#### Site Characterization

- Completed site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements on November 29.
- Conducted meteorological monitoring and continuous PM10 monitoring at AM-1, AM-3 and AM-6.
- Continued drafting the 3Q 2007 Air Quality Monitoring Report, and initiated responses to EPA comments on the 2Q AQM Report.
- Continued preparation of the draft Pit Lake RI Work Plan including the OU-specific HHRA Work Plan, the Ecological Investigations Work Plan and the Screening Level Ecologic Risk Assessment Work Plan.
- Submitted the revised Site-Wide Groundwater RI Work Plan and associated Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Work Plan to EPA on November 19.
- Continued preparation of the draft Data Summary Report for the Background Soils Work Plan, including statistical analysis of the data sets for metals (validated radiochemical data was not available by month's end).
- Continued the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step HFA drilling, zonal sampling and well installation program including the completion of monitor wells 11D3, 1I, 1I1, 1S, 9S, 9I, 5D, 5S and 5I (5D was re-drilled on an adjacent parcel because of an owner access issue, the original 5D was abandoned according to State regulations).
- The pit lake pressure transducer installed in September was replaced on November 28, and was observed to function properly. The recorded lake level of 4,212.8 feet above mean sea level was verified by surveyed stakes placed in the ground along the access ramp.
- Continued processing camera trap data, and continued a statistical analysis of data to understand wildlife use of the area around the evaporation and pumpback ponds, and sewage treatment ponds.

#### Planned December 2007 Activities

- Attend Stakeholder's Meeting
- Continue routine O&M and site security activities.
- Conduct December groundwater elevations measurements.
- Continue preparation of the Data Summary Report for Background Soils.
- Continue the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step HFA program.
- Continue revised AQM program.
- Submit Pit Lake RI Work Plan, and attached HHRA and SLERA Work Plans.
- Continue the wildlife observation program on the site, including photo-documentation in the area of the evaporation ponds and sewage treatment ponds at the northern portion of the site. Initiate preparation of a Wildlife Field Summary Report.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (661) 287-3855 or via e-mail at [Roy.Thun@bp.com](mailto:Roy.Thun@bp.com).

Sincerely,

*Chuck Zimmerman for*

Roy Thun  
Environmental Business Manager



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cc: Mike Montgomery, EPA – via electronic mail  
Sheryl Bilbrey, EPA – via electronic mail  
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington Manager – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Chris Winsor, Atlantic Richfield Company - via electronic mail  
Todd Normane, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
John Batchelder, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
Jim Chatham, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
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